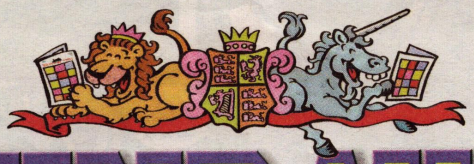
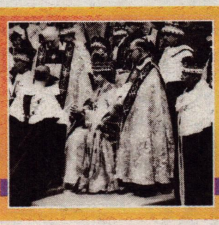
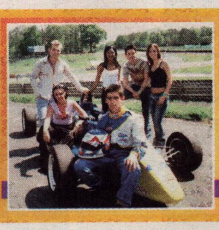
No 664 June 2, 2002



THE FUNDAY TIMES



Golden jubilee
We celebrate the Queen's reign with a look at 50 years of news and events
Page 3



Speed demons
Liberty X enjoy the thrills of car racing with Formula Ford ace Westley Barber
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Mushy movie
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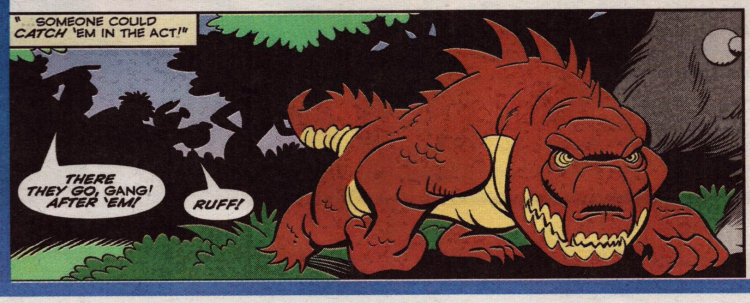
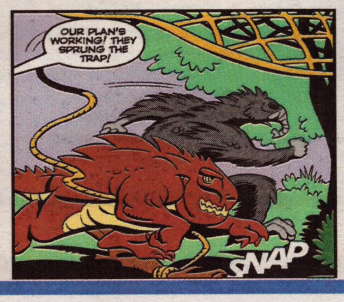
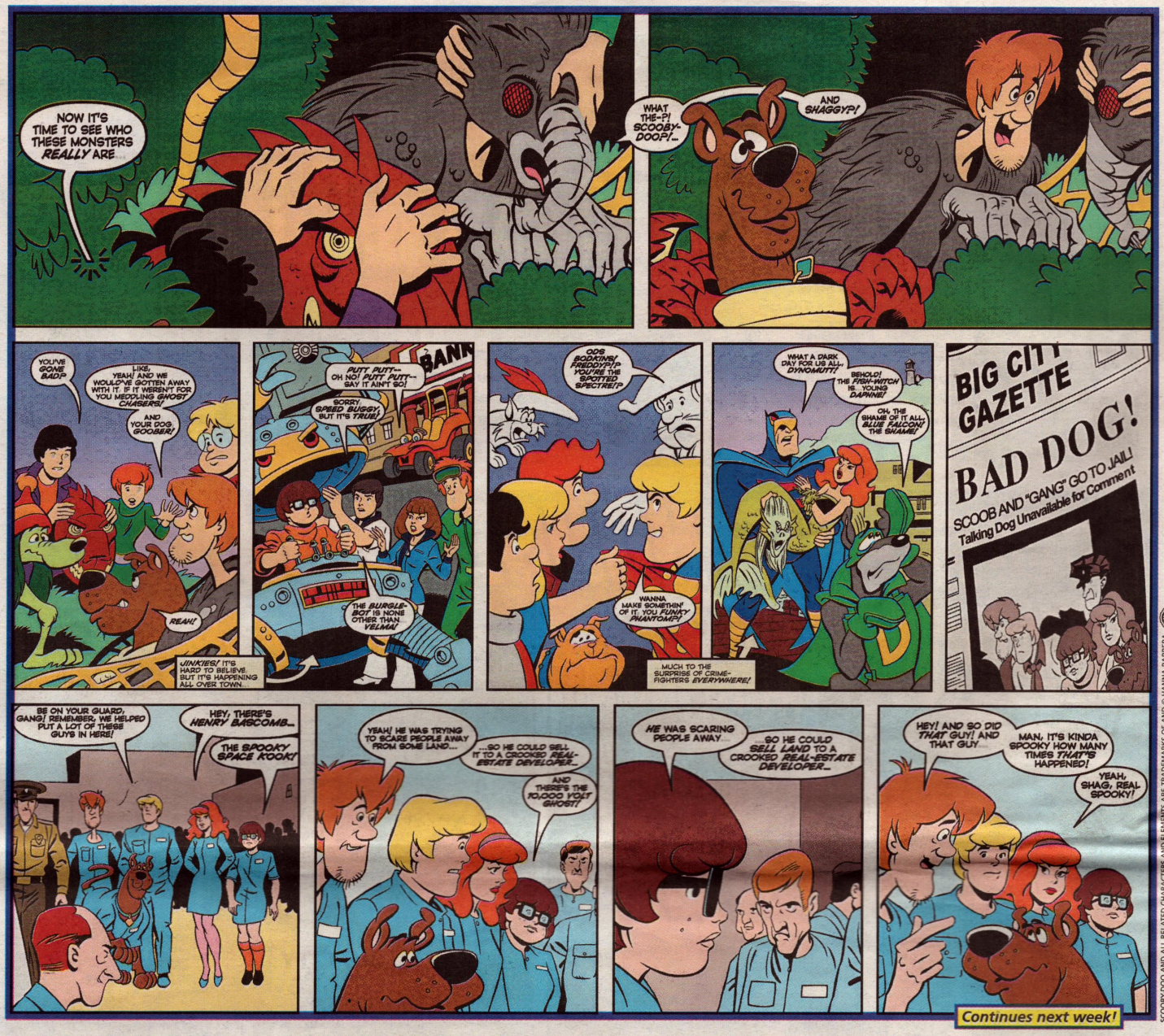
SCOOBY-DOO! in BIG HOUSE BROUHAHA





More inside



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HELLO EVERYONE!

It's the Queen's golden jubilee weekend and Funday is celebrating in style! Not only have we turned gold for this issue, but we've also got a special news page that reports on some of the biggest stories from around the world during the Queen's 50-year reign. Check out the fantastic golden jubilee feature on page 5 that shows how our society has changed since 1952, when the Queen ascended to the throne.

Did you know that by reaching her golden jubilee, the Queen becomes the sixth longest serving British monarch? And on June 21, she'll become the fifth longest – with Queen Victoria [63 years], George III [59 years], Henry III [56 years] and James VI of Scotland, James I of England [58 years] ahead of her. It's an incredible achievement, and it's why people across the nation are celebrating this weekend.

We even discovered this hilarious golden garden gnome [pictured left], created by one British craftsman especially for the occasion! Tomorrow, the Queen will launch the BBC Music Live Festival in Slough, which kicks off a musical party in more than 200 towns and cities throughout the UK. This culminates in a spectacular Party At The Palace concert at Buckingham Palace. Catch it live on BBC1 from 7.30pm with a line-up that includes: Will Young, Blue, Atomic Kitten, Aretha Franklin, Mis-Teeq, S Club 7 and Ricky Martin.

Enjoy the party – wherever you are!
Have a great week,

Dave

Dave, editor

PICTURES: JAMIE HUGHES, APEX/NICK GREGORY

Write in and tell us what you did for the Queen's golden jubilee!

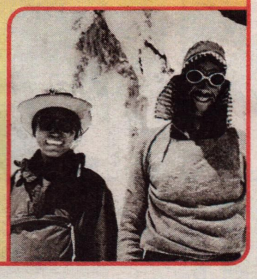
FUNDAY

NEWS

50 YEARS OF HEADLINES

Crowning moments 1952-1961

King George VI, the Queen's father, died on February 6, 1952, while 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth was in Kenya on a Commonwealth tour. She returned home as Queen to a country in mourning, and was crowned a year later at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953. Crowds gathered in London to watch the spectacular coronation [below] and to cheer the new Queen Elizabeth II. The celebrating hordes were further excited when news of a British expedition reaching the summit of Mount Everest was broadcast from loudspeakers. New Zealander Edmund Hillary became the first man to reach the summit with his Nepalese Sherpa, Tenzing Norkhay [right]. The heroic mountaineers stepped onto Everest's 8,848m peak at 11.30am on May 29, 1953. Edmund was later knighted and Tenzing received the George Medal.

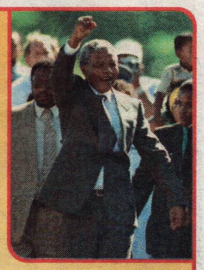


War is over 1972-1981

On August 12, 1972, the last American troops left Vietnam, eight years after the first US marines landed in South Vietnam to help the fight against the communist North. President Nixon's unpopular war against North Vietnam was lost. More than 58,000 Americans were killed and up to 3m people from Southeast Asia.

In Britain in 1977, silver jubilee celebrations took place to mark the 25 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign with street parties being held throughout Britain [right]. Later, in 1981, the nation was enchanted by the marriage of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer at St Paul's Cathedral on July 29 [above]. The royal wedding was watched by 700m people across the world.

Blazing a trail 1982-1991



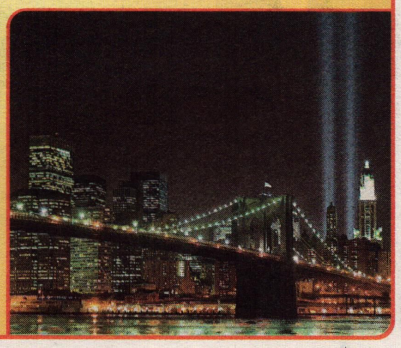
Halley's Comet passed over Earth in 1986 – an event that happens once every 75 years. So look out for it in 2061! On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela [right] was freed after 27 years in jail in South Africa for his opposition to the government. The country had been dominated by a white minority for three centuries and, since 1948, black people had lived in horrendous poverty because of apartheid – a cruel government policy of segregation according to race. Later that same year another bid for freedom was made – this time in Germany. The Berlin Wall, which had stood since 1961, separating the West from the East was finally pulled down, reuniting the city. This also signalled the end of the communist Soviet Union and the Cold War.

Space race 1962-1971

With the launch of Vostok 1, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space in 1961. Gagarin orbited the Earth in a space capsule for 108 minutes. Eight years later, on July 20, 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. Neil was the commander of the American spacecraft, Apollo 11. His crew included Michael Collins, command module pilot, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, lunar module pilot, who later joined Neil on the moon. The two astronauts spent two-and-a-half hours on the lunar surface. Our picture [left] shows Buzz with Neil's reflection on his visor. Neil later received the Medal of Freedom, the highest award an American civilian can receive.

World of change 1992-2002

Two years after his release, Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa, spelling the end of apartheid. The Prince and Princess of Wales announced their separation on December 9, 1992, a year the Queen described as an "annus horribilis". Tragedy was to later strike Diana, Princess of Wales, when in August 1997 she was killed in a car accident in Paris. It led to an emotional outpouring throughout the country – and the world – with Diana's official residence, St James's Palace, being flooded with floral tributes and words of condolence. However, most events of the previous 10 years were overshadowed by the horrific sight of the terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Centre towers on September 11, 2001. Two hijacked planes flew into the twin towers leading to them collapsing. Two other hijacked planes also crashed. An estimated 3,000 people died.

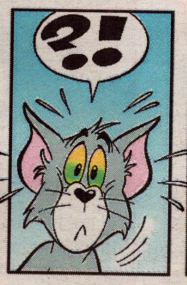


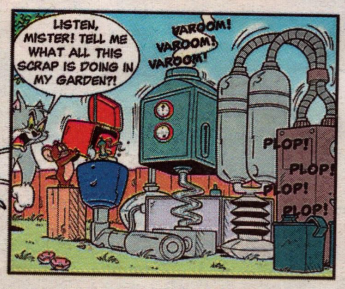
PICTURES: POPPERFOTO, PA, EPA/AFP/DOUG KANTER, REUTERS/ULLI MICHEL

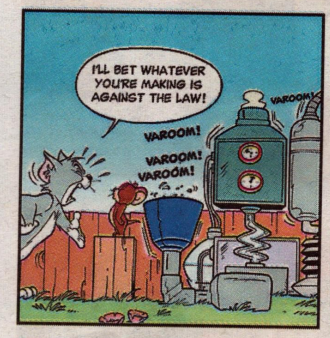
Funday News returns next week!

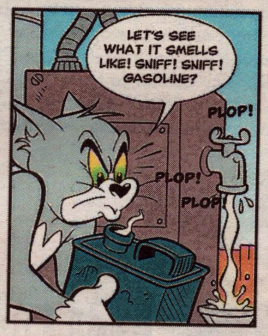
TOM AND JERRY SPACE INVADERS

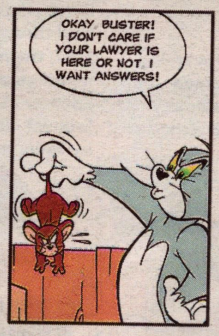
The story so far – The aliens have upset life for Tom and Jerry, but Tom doesn't believe they're from outer space!

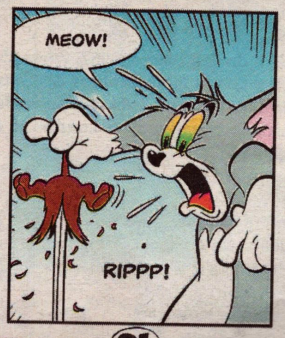


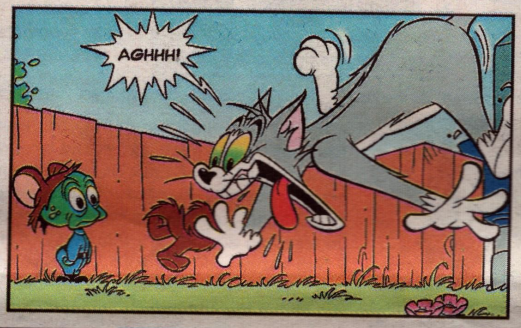


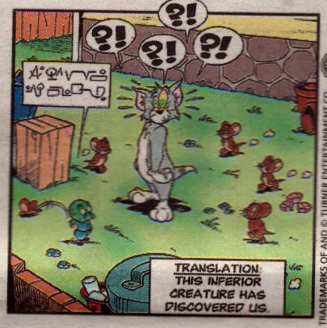


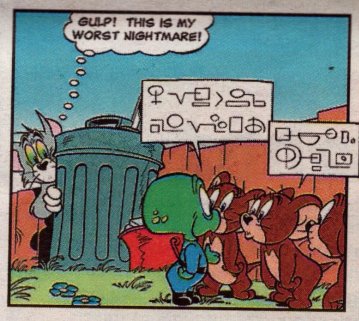












Concludes in three weeks!

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BRAINBOX

I'm Brainbox – the Funday boffin! Send in a puzzling question you want to know the answer to and see if my friends and I can answer it

Why is the sky blue?
Callum McGarry, 11, Chessington

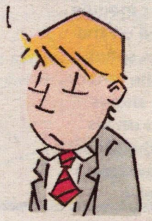
The blue dome of sky has no physical reality. It is a light show made from sunlight, scattered to our eyes by the atmosphere. The white light from the sun is made up of different colours – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Tiny air molecules get in the way of the light as it passes through the atmosphere but the red, orange, yellow and green light are not affected [scattered] as much as the blue, indigo and violet light. The blue scattered light is more easily seen by human eyes. Sometimes, at sunrise and sunset, we can see the red, orange and yellow colours, as the bluish colours have been scattered even more than usual by the depth of atmosphere the sunlight has to pass through. At night, the sky is black as the source of the light show – the sun – has gone.

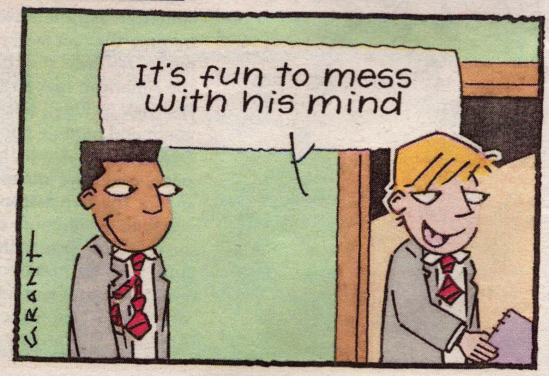
PICTURE: AP

Answer by John E Thornes, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society [with The Institute of British Geographers] www.rgs.org

If you have a question for Brainbox, write to: Brainbox, The Funday Times, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST or e-mail brainbox@sunday-times.co.uk

Jarvis





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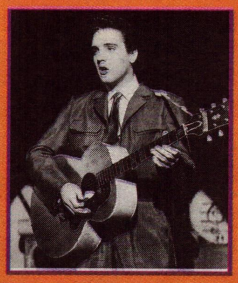
Make sure you send your tricky questions to Brainbox!

GOLDEN YEARS

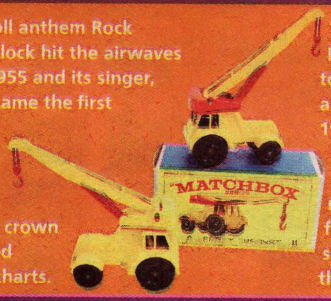
Miranda Nugent looks back at what's happened during the 50 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign

1952-1961

MOVIES Tickets to the cinema cost between 1/6d [7p] and 2/6d [12p]! The 1950s saw the term "teenager" used for the first time. James Dean and Marilyn Monroe [left] became iconic movie stars.



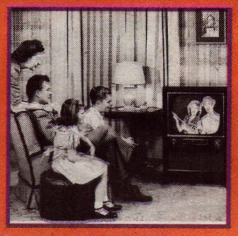
POP Rock'n'roll anthem Rock Around The Clock hit the airwaves in Britain in 1955 and its singer, Bill Haley, became the first rock'n'roll star. Elvis Presley [left], aka the King, soon stole his crown and dominated the decade's charts.



TOYS Matchbox toy cars first appeared in 1952. The famous Hula Hoop arrived on the scene in 1958, 20 million were sold in its first year, and Lego was seen at the Toy Fair for the first time in 1960!

1962-1971

TV By the end of the 1960s nine out of 10 households had a TV and in 1967 colour television began. By 1965, Dr Who and Thunderbirds arrived on screen and cartoons, including Yogi Bear and Huckleberry Hound, became popular.

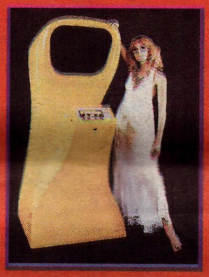


POP The Beatles burst onto the scene in 1962 and pop was born. The band had 17 UK number one hit singles in the 1960s, and in April 1964 they held the first five places in the US Billboard charts. Other popular singers included Cilla Black and Cliff Richard!

TOYS The James Bond Aston Martin Car became the first ever Toy Of The Year in 1965. Action Man won it in 1966 and the Spirograph in 1967. The Space Hopper [right] craze gripped the whole country in 1971.

1972-1981

MOVIES This decade belonged to talented young American directors Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. Steven Spielberg's Jaws [left] cost $12 million to make and, in 1975, became the highest grossing film in history. George Lucas's Star Wars swiped that title when it was released in 1977.



TECHNOLOGY Computer Space, the world's first commercial video game machine [left] appeared in 1972. The first personal computer, the Altair 8800, became available in 1978 and the personal stereo arrived in 1979.

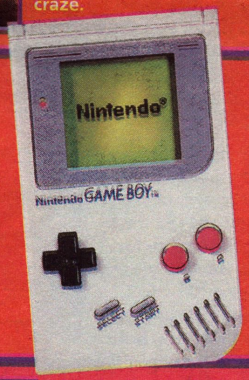
TOYS The Rubik's Cube, [left] was launched in 1980 and became the toy of the decade. The tricky and colourful puzzle was invented by Hungarian professor Erno Rubik, and soon became an international craze.

1982-1991

TV Channel 4 went on air for the first time on November 2, 1982, a year before pound coins were introduced into purses and pockets! A year later, the BBC launched Breakfast Time TV [above] and Children's ITV began broadcasting for the first time.

POP CDs were introduced in 1983 and Michael Jackson's second album, Thriller [1982] won eight grammys and became the best-selling album of all time, selling 47m copies worldwide. Two years later, in 1984, Madonna hit the headlines with her first UK top 10 hit, Holiday.

TECHNOLOGY Nintendo launched the hand-held Game Boy, creating a new software market. Despite the £70 price tag, the Game Boy became hugely popular – selling 100 million in four years. Today, one third of all Japanese and American homes have one. Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web in 1991.



1992-2002

MOVIES The 1990s were about mega-budgets and special effects. By 1998, the average Hollywood film budget had climbed to almost $53 million. Jurassic Park [1993] and Independence Day [1996] gave way to millennium movies Harry Potter and The Lord Of The Rings [above].

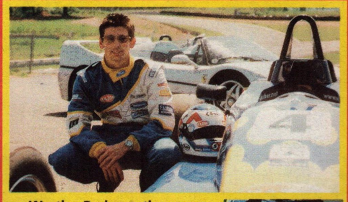
TECHNOLOGY In the 1950s, early computers were less powerful than a modern-day calculator, filled vast rooms and took hours to perform even simple functions. Today, an Apple iMac [left] costs less than £1,300, and can perform multiple functions in milliseconds.

POP The first half of the 1990s were dominated by Robbie's boy band, Take That. They split in 1996, the same year the Spice Girls arrived with Wannabe. Indie bands Oasis and Blur were feuding and Britney had her first number one with Baby ... One More Time [1999].

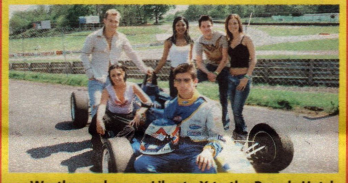
PICTURES: AP MICA, POPPERFOTO, PA, MOVIESTORE COLLECTION LTD ©BBC PICTURE ARCHIVES, COURTESY OF APPLE, PHOTOS BY SIPA PRESS/REX FEATURES/REX FEATURES

IN THE FAST LANE!

When chart toppers Liberty X asked for a taste of life in the fast lane, we took them to Brands Hatch where Formula Ford star Westley Barber was ready to test their nerves! Dave Coombs reports



1 Westley Barber is the young star of Britain's Formula Ford circuit. Formula Ford was created in the 1960s by a racing school boss who became fed up with students ruining expensive Formula Three engines. The solution was lightweight vehicles, powered by normal Ford engines – specially tuned to cope with the demands of the race track.

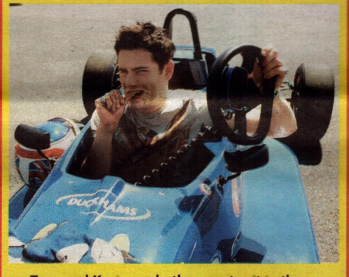


2 Westley welcomes Liberty X to the Brands Hatch circuit and shows the band his Formula Ford car. "It's made from steel tubing with a fibreglass body, and has an 1800 Zetec engine, just like that in a Ford Mondeo or an Escort," he explains.

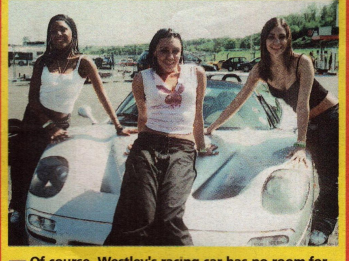
3 Formula Ford cars are built for speed, not comfort – so it's a tight squeeze for the drivers. When racing, Westley wears these gloves and racesuit, both made from four layers of fire-resistant fabric.

4 "It's got pedals and a gear stick just like a normal family car," points out Westley. Although the driver's display is on the steering wheel, not the dashboard – because it's the only place with room for it.

5 The digital display shows the lap number, lap speed, minimum speed and the number of revs – but doesn't have a speedometer. "That's because when I'm racing, speed isn't that important," Westley reveals to Funday. "During a race, I'm not looking at what speed I'm doing – I'm looking at the opposition."

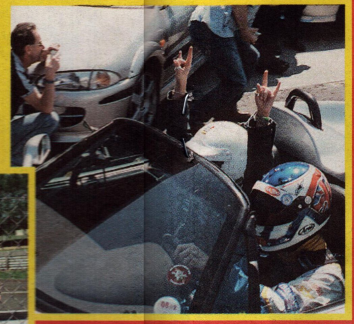


6 Tony and Kevin are both eager to sit in the racing car and try it for size. "When the money starts rolling in from Liberty X, I'd love to drive my own racing car," Tony chuckles.



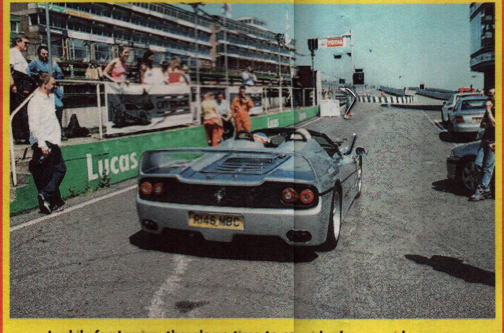
7 Of course, Westley's racing car has no room for passengers, so today he's using this Ferrari F50 to whizz Liberty X around the track – at speeds of up to 210kph.

8 Final preparations for the speed circuits take place in the pits at Brands Hatch. While mechanics give the car a last check, it's time for Liberty X to get into their race gear.

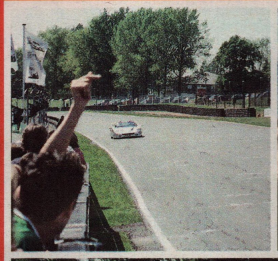


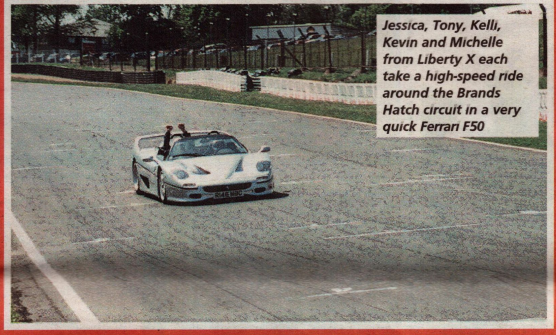
9 First to ride is Jessica – who puts on a protective crash helmet before taking her place in the Ferrari. "I've never had a scary moment on the race track," Westley reassures Jessica. "Although I suppose that means I am due one," he adds.

10 "I thought I was a brave person, but now I've been strapped in and put the helmet on, I'm a bit scared," Jessica cringes, as the car door closes.



11 Luckily for Jessica, there's no time to consider her pre-ride nerves. Westley puts the Ferrari into gear and speeds the silver sports car out of the pits and onto the famous race track at Brands Hatch.

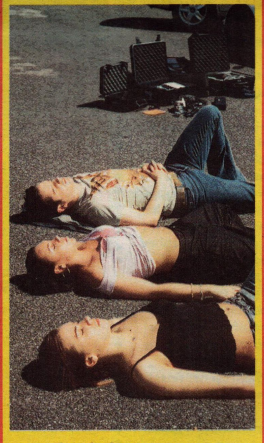




Jessica, Tony, Kelli, Kevin and Michelle from Liberty X each take a high-speed ride around the Brands Hatch circuit in a very quick Ferrari F50

12 In turn, each member of the band takes their place next to Westley in the hot seat. For safety, passengers are secured in the Ferrari F50 using these shoulder straps and a lap restraint.

13 With all the preparation involved, Michelle gets a bit restless and can't wait to get racing. As the car door is shut, she lets out a loud whoop and raises her hands, ready to feel the speed.



14 After the hectic preparations and frantic racing circuits, Liberty X sign autographs for the pit mechanics and finally find a little time to enjoy the sizzling summer sunshine.

REACTION TIME

Read what Liberty X said immediately after their high-speed circuits at Brands Hatch

JESSICA
It was like being on a rollercoaster but on the ground. The corners were amazing but I was gripping onto my seat for dear life most of the time.

KEVIN
That was brilliant. It was amazing. One of the best things I've ever done. Words cannot describe a feeling like that. It was a bit scary because the car slides around quite a lot.

KELLI
It was brilliant. So fast! Your head is stuck in one position. The best bit was when Westley put his foot down at the beginning. it really shot off. It is incredible and I even felt a bit light headed when I got out.

TONY
Wow! That was far faster than I imagined it would be. I want to go again. You can feel the speed in your body. On the first corner I though it might flip but it's so low, it's okay.

MICHELLE
That was wicked. On the first bend there's a little bank, so it was like a rollercoaster. I was nervous and I don't actually feel very well today anyway, so I feel a bit queasy now.

PICTURES: TOM EVANS

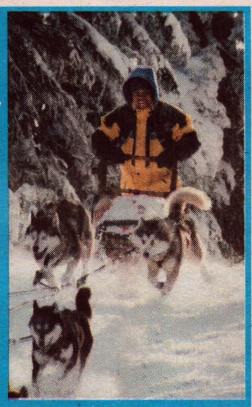
Liberty X's fantastic debut album, Thinking It Over, is out now on V2 Records

To find out more about Westley and Formula Ford racing, visit www.racecar.co.uk/westleybarber

THE FUNDAY TIMES

FUNDAY BUZZ!

HOWL WITH LAUGHTER



Snow Dogs [cert PG] is the latest hit animal flick from the Disney studios. The movie's human stars, Cuba Gooding Jr, Joanna Bacalso and Sisqo, are upstaged by a pack of gorgeous Siberian huskies and a collie – the snow dogs of the title. Buzz! caught up with the furry stars and their trainers to see if it's a dog's life after all.

The roles of the two lead dogs, Demon and Nana, were played by pooches who were working as sled dogs in Alaska. The movie sent casting people up to the frozen US state to photograph dogs, and when the producers found DJ [Demon], they realised they'd found their star. "That one is the Brad Pitt of huskies!" laughs Stacy Basil, who with her partner Ray Beal trained the dogs for the movie.

"He definitely had the smart gene," adds Ray, patting DJ's head. "They picked him based on his looks alone, but luckily he also came with a brain."

The trainers got even more than they bargained for when they found Fly [Nana]. "Fly here is a diva," laughs Stacy, as Fly runs around the room. "She doesn't like to mush, she likes warm vans, sweaters, and warm water, whereas the other dogs love mushing. So she didn't do that. She stayed in her five-star hotel and acted like a star!"

Fly's diva-attitude meant that a stand-in collie had to be found for the scenes where she mushes the sled. Plus, to make sure that the stand-in resembled Fly, a team of dog hair and make-up artists were hired!

"There are actually people who are hair-stylists to the animal stars," says Stacy. "They match the faces. The make-up they use is natural, animal friendly, like blueberry-based dyes."

RISING STAR

Pop Idol judge Pete Waterman signed 13-year-old Lauren Waterworth when she was just 11. Lauren's debut album, The Show, is out tomorrow and the girl from Wigan talks to Emma Lucas

Hi Lauren, when did you begin singing?
At about the age of four – I was always performing and entertaining my family.

Have you always wanted to be a pop star?
I've always known that I wanted to perform and sing professionally, so it's a dream come true.

So, Pete Waterman chose to sign you instead of any Pop Idol finalists ..
Yes, which is amazing. I watched Pop Idol religiously and I thought it was fab.

What makes you different from other pop stars?
I have a passion for music. I really feel the music and the lyrics. I don't want to be the next Britney or Madonna – I just want to be Lauren.

Have you performed in front of anyone famous?
The royal family, the Prime Minister, Atomic Kitten and the casts of Emmerdale, EastEnders and Coronation Street. Oh, and I'm on the Westlife tour, too.

If your mum had to tell us a secret about you, what would she say?
That I love Mini Eggs .. I just adore them. I'll tell you a funny story. I was recording my album and Pete had left the studio. I was messing about on my break and started shoving Mini Eggs up my nose, and before I knew it, one had popped out and shot straight across the room. We then heard Pete coming back, so quickly grabbed all the stray eggs and shoved them back in the bag. Pete came in, and said: "Mini Eggs .. my favourite," and started stuffing them in his mouth! After a few seconds we all started laughing and someone blurted out: "Lauren had them up her nose!" It was so funny, but Pete's reaction was: "Wigan snot is as good as anyone's snot." Typical!

COME ON YOU BLUE

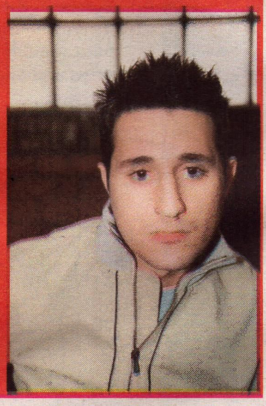
Blue's Duncan and Ant get into the World Cup spirit!

Do you get excited about the World Cup?
Duncan: Definitely. I remember watching the last World Cup, the night we got knocked out. There were a lot of emotions and it was really tense. I was with my mates in Dorset and some of them ended up crying.

Ant: Oh yeah. I'm not sure England are going to do it but, if they get to the quarter-finals, they have got as good a chance as anyone. Let's just get through the first stage, it's a tough group.

What would a Blue World Cup song sound like?
Duncan: I don't know. A collaboration with other artists would be a good thing, get Mr Elton John to figure out something. He's always good at writing songs like that.

Ant: Yeah, man. I'd like to do it with the England squad, Skinner and Baddiel and Robbie Williams. A song like Queen's We Are The Champions, that would be quite good. I'd have Teddy Sheringham at the front. He's always been my favourite Spurs player, even though he went to Man United.

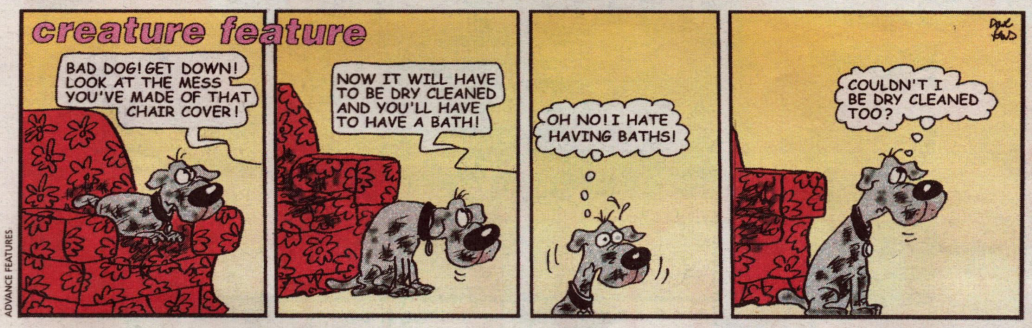


Do you remember any World Cup songs?
Duncan: What's that awful one from last time? That Vindaloo song by Fat Les. Elton John would do a proper job at rousing the nation!
Ant: Yeah, the 1990 one by New Order. I love it, every time that one comes on in a club it just gets me going. That one and Three Lions but the New Order one more because that's when England were wicked.

PICTURES TOM EVANS ©DISNEY ENTERPRISES INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Buzz! is best for pop and movie interviews!

"Hey !
Have YOU seen
my BIG ugly
BUTT ?"
PENGUIN
WING DINGS
PENGUIN SHAPED BISCUITS
HALF COVERED IN MILK CHOCOLATE
New!



ADVANCE FEATURES

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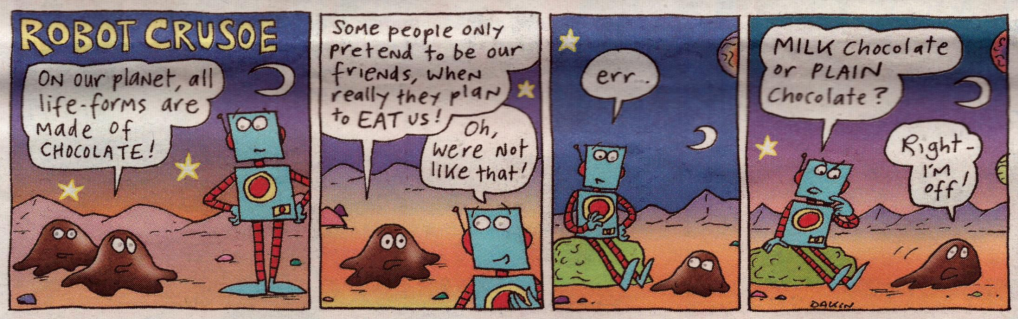
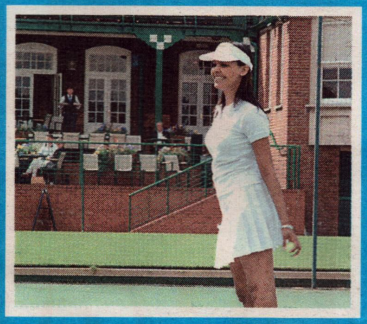


NEXT WEEK



PICTURE: TONY BUCKINGHAM

We reveal why pop star Samantha Mumba is playing tennis!

Get £1 off the latest Lemony Snicket book, The Ersatz Elevator, and read Funday's exclusive extract from the latest in the Series of Unfortunate Events!

Britain's top high jumper Ben Challenger talks to Funday Sport

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

EAT THE BARTMAN!

Breakfast will never be the same again! The tasty new Kellogg's Bart Simpson's No ProblemOs are in shops now. The cereal is a delicious mix of frosted multi-grain loops and mini-chocolatey biscuits featuring the character faces from the show. There are 12 different biscuits to look out for – including Bart, Homer and Lisa. The writer of the star f-mail will receive one of only 2,000 limited edition Simpsons animation cells called Breakfast with the Simpsons, plus five boxes of the cereal.

Kellogg's

The other f-mailers will receive a Simpsons talking alarm clock and five boxes of No ProblemOs.

Brian Nolan, 10, Ashbourne, Ireland

Dear f-mail,
I had my tooth pulled out the other day. I was really scared because I thought they would use an injection and I'm really terrified of them. Luckily, it all went pretty well. All my friends had made it sound really painful, but it wasn't at all. One guy told me that the needle they used was 15cm long, and being gullible, I believed him! I even got my tooth back! Going to the dentist isn't that bad.
Meera Joshi, 13, Bristol

After a visit to the doctor, Joe Bloggs, the city team's centre forward, dropped in to see his best mate Brian.
"What's up, mate?" asked Brian. "You look worried."
"Yes, I am," Joe replied. "I've just been to the doctor and he told me I can't play football."
"Oh, really?" replied Brian. "He's seen you play too then, has he?"
Nikick, via e-mail

Poor old Squirt!

FUNDAY

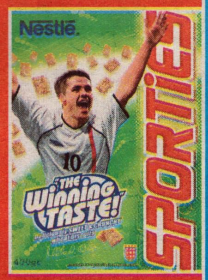
WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. Competition deadline: June 12

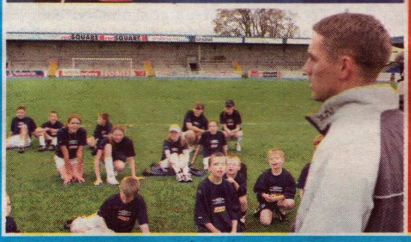
You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

OWEN GOAL

Sporties – the delicious cereal for active kids – has a new look and taste. But that's not the only new thing, this summer there's a Sporties Academy to develop top footballing skill – and Sporties star Michael Owen will be there!



The Academy, run in association with the English Schools Football Association [ESFA], is offering two readers the chance to meet England's super-striker Michael Owen, on a one-day training session. Each winner [with one friend and a guardian] will receive training with a top ESFA coach and also have their photo taken with Michael, as well as get his autograph. They'll also get a goodie bag. Plus, one runner-up will receive a Michael Owen-signed Umbro football.

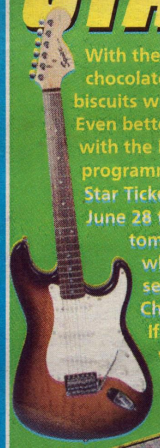


To enter, tell us in which city Michael scored his famous hat-trick against Germany last year.

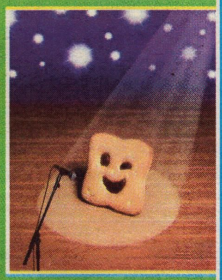
Mark your entry SPORTIES! and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

SPORTIES

STAR BISCUITS



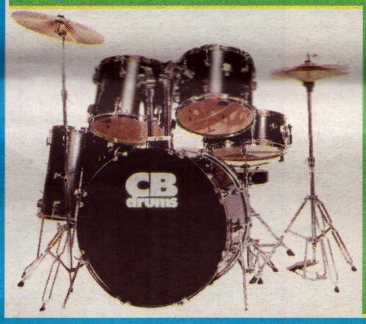
With their smiley faces, the delicious chocolate or strawberry flavoured BN biscuits will keep snackers happy! Even better, BN biscuits have teamed up with the Disney Channel's Star Ticket programme to help kids' dreams come true. Star Ticket is a 17-part series launching on June 28 that will search for the stars of tomorrow. Viewers will get to choose who should be in the Disney band, set to perform at the Disney Channel Kids Awards in October. If you reckon you've got what it takes, click on www.disney.co.uk/disneychannel/starticket to find out more. "BN a star has never been so easy!"



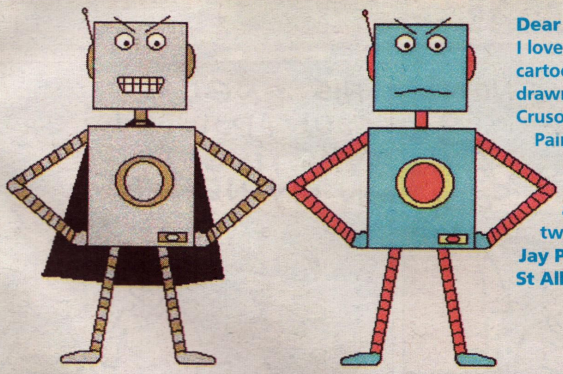
Funday is offering one reader an electronic keyboard, a Strat pack electric guitar with amp and plectrum, a five-piece drum kit [with a stand and a stool], plus a microphone with floor stand.

To enter, tell us where the Disney Channel Kids Awards final will be held.

Mark your entry STAR STRUCK and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.



Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions



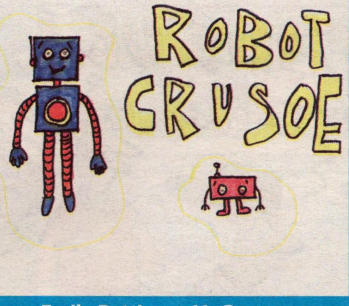
Dear f-mail,
I love creating cartoons. I've drawn Robot Crusoe on Paintbox and I've also designed an evil twin for him!
Jay Perry, 12, St Albans

What is the soft stuff between a shark's teeth?
Slow swimmers!

What do you call a lady with two toilets on her head?
Lulu!

Did you hear about the man who got a job at the zoo, cleaning out the elephant house?
He's already complaining that his work is piling up!

Andrew Underwood, 12, via e-mail



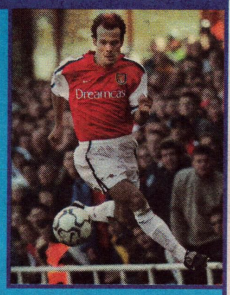
Emily Rattigan, 11, Gower

F-mail will be going photo-crazy this summer!

FUNDAY SPORT

FREDRIK LJUNGBERG

England begin their Group F World Cup campaign this morning, against Sweden – a nation they have not beaten for 34 years. Sweden will be hoping their danger man, the in-form Fredrik Ljungberg, will be fit to play after his recent injury. Funday profiles Arsenal's Swedish midfielder



● "Freddie" has made 32 appearances for his country, scoring twice. The 25-year-old first came to the English public's notice by shining for Sweden in a 2-1 win against England at the Euro 2000 qualifier in Stockholm in September 1998.

● Just seven days after that star performance, Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger paid Fredrik's Swedish club, Halmstads, £3.5m to bring him to Highbury. "I signed Freddie without ever watching him live," confesses Arsène. "I was scared someone else would take him and was forced to rush into an instant decision." Freddie made his Arsenal debut on September 20, 1998, as they beat Manchester United 3-0.

● This season, Fredrik's form and 17-goal tally has been crucial in the Gunners achieving the Premiership and FA Cup double. In April and May, he scored seven vital goals, including a goal in the FA Cup final against Chelsea. Freddie's performances saw Arsenal fans dye their hair red [just as Freddie does when playing for Arsenal] and buy "We love you, Freddie" T-shirts in his honour!

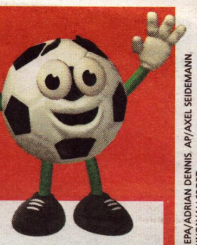
● Nobody knows the danger Fredrik poses more that England goal-keeper and Arsenal team-mate David Seaman. "Sweden have got a red-haired guy who is quite good," laughs David. "It's not just his goals you have to be careful of, it is his runs as well. He's a very dangerous player. We'll make sure we keep an eye on him, don't you worry."
Even so, fellow Swede and England coach, Sven-Göran Eriksson, has said he's "a little scared" about Freddie!

● Freddie, himself, is hoping he's fit to play in this morning's crucial World Cup opener. "It will be strange to face David Seaman, Sol Campbell, Ashley Cole and Martin Keown. We've all been telling each other not to think about the World Cup until the league was settled. I can say that England v Sweden is going to be a very special match for us all."

Watch England v Sweden, this morning, on ITV1, from 8.25am [kick-off, 10.30am]

SPORT NEWS

Funday's Striker previews this week's top World Cup games



Tomorrow Group C Brazil v Turkey

A World Cup without the flamboyant Brazilians is unimaginable, but the 2002 team only just made it to the finals after losing six qualifiers. Will they sparkle or struggle in South Korea? See how Rivaldo, Ronaldo and co tackle the unfancied but talented Turks. It could be an early upset. Live on BBC1 from 9.45am.

Wednesday Group E Germany v Ireland

Roy Keane might have been sent home, but with Robbie Keane, Damien Duff and Ian Harte playing, Ireland should go into this game without fear. However, one player they would love to have in midfield is the talented German Michael Ballack [who Roy Keane would have faced]. Live on ITV1 from 12noon, with highlights on BBC1 at 7pm.

Mickey's magic

Feel the football fever at Disney Store with its Mickey World Cup range – it's kickin'! As well as a Mickey World Cup football kit, pop-up goal and football, there is a top Mickey World Cup lunch bag, stationery set and backpack.

Disney Store is offering one reader £250 worth of vouchers to spend at any UK Disney Store.

Plus, eight runners-up will each get vouchers worth £50.

To enter, tell us where the last World Cup was held.

Mark your entry DISNEY STORE and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.

Disney store

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RK

England face Argentina on Friday!